

Hearing Loss Prevention (Noise)

WAC 296-817-100

Scope

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The purpose of this chapter is to:

- Prevent employee hearing loss by minimizing employee noise exposures

AND

- Make sure employees exposed to noise are protected.

These goals are accomplished by:

- Measuring and computing the employee noise exposure from all equipment and machinery in the workplace, as well as any other noise sources in the work area
- Protecting employees from noise exposure by using feasible noise controls
- Making sure employees use hearing protection, if you cannot feasibly control the noise
- Training employees about hearing loss prevention
- Evaluating your hearing loss prevention efforts by tracking employee hearing or periodically reviewing controls and protection
- Making appropriate corrections to your program.



Reference:

Table 1 will help you determine the hearing loss prevention requirements for your workplace. For the specific requirements associated with Noise Evaluation Criteria, see WAC 296-817-30010 of this chapter.

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WAC 296-817-100 (Continued)

Table 1
Noise Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Description	Requirements
85 dBA TWA ₈	Full-day employee noise exposure dose. If you have one or more employees whose exposure equals or exceeds this level, you must have a hearing loss prevention program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Hearing protection– Training– Audiometric testing
90 dBA TWA ₈	Full-day employee noise exposure dose. If you have one or more employees whose exposure equals or exceeds this level, you must reduce employee noise exposures in the workplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Noise controls and– Hearing protection– Training– Audiometric testing
115 dBA measured using slow response	Extreme noise level (greater than one second in duration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Hearing protection– Signs posted in work areas warning of exposure
140 dBC measured using fast response	Extreme impulse or impact noise (less than one second in duration)	Hearing protection